



Alabama Fatherhood Initiative (AFI) Quarterly Newsletter - Spring 2004

'I cannot think of any need in childhood as strong as the need for a father's protection.' Sigmund Freud

Rose – The Official Father's Day Flower

The History of Father's Day June 20, 2004

The United States is one of the few countries in the world that have an official day on which fathers are honored by their children. On the third Sunday in June, fathers in the United States are made to feel special. In 1924 President Calvin Coolidge made Father's Day a national event to "establish more intimate relations between fathers and their children and to impress upon fathers the full measure of their obligations." In 1966, President Lyndon Johnson declared the 3rd Sunday of June as Father's Day with a presidential proclamation.

Tuscaloosa Father's Day Event

On Saturday, **June 5, 2004, Family Solutions, Fatherhood Initiative Program (FIP), will host the 4th Annual Fatherhood Rally** with a picnic from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. at Snow Hinton Park in Tuscaloosa, Alabama. The purpose of the event is to set aside a day to encourage dads to spend quality time with their children, and to encourage interaction between fathers and children throughout the year. Rally speakers include Fatherhood Initiative Program graduates and the distinguished members of Tuscaloosa's Family Court. The activities include games, father-child competitions, and plenty of food. Special children's programming is planned, via a giant state-of-the-art DVD three-screen media showcase. Contact **Doc Taylor, 205-342-2566**, for more information.

The National Institute for Human Development (NIHD) Hosts an Alabama Conference on Fatherhood

The NIHD and other agencies/organizations will host an Alabama Conference on Fatherhood, June 4 - 5, at the Jefferson County Convention Center, Birmingham, Alabama. The conference is designed to call attention to issues of child abuse, literacy, teen pregnancy, and view healthy families as an avenue to economic well being.

There will be seminars, fatherhood workshops, and messages from prominent speakers to seek solutions to help fathers to develop strong, active roles in the lives of their children and communities. The Conference Board of Directors includes Dr. W. Clyde Williams, the former President of Miles College, and Richard Arrington, Jr., the former Mayor of Birmingham, AL. The public is invited to attend. Go to <http://www.alfatherhood.org> for more conference information.

**7th National Summit on Fatherhood
Atlanta, Georgia
June 7 – 9, 2004**

LOOK for a **SPECIAL ISSUE** of the next **AFI NEWSLETTER**, devoted to highlights from the **7th National Summit on Fatherhood** to be held this year on June 7-9 in nearby Atlanta, GA.

Call 256-340-5996 to contribute to the AFI Newsletter, compiled and distributed by the Alabama Department of Human Resources.